

### Remarks

Claims 1-18 were pending. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended while claims 9-13 and 17-18 have been cancelled. Applicant asserts that the currently pending claims are now in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

### 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, and 14-16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kang (US 5,714,723). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections to the extent they apply to the currently pending claims.

#### Claims 1-8, 14, and 15

Regarding claim 1, Kang fails to disclose a series output switching jack of the cabinet and a parallel output switching jack of the cabinet. Furthermore, Kang fails to disclose the particular configuration of connections between the series output switching jack, parallel output switching jack, input jack, and speaker connection. Additionally, Kang fails to disclose the change in configuration that occurs upon a plug being inserted into the series output switching jack and fails to disclose the change in configuration that occurs upon a plug being inserted into the parallel output switching jack. Accordingly, Kang fails to disclose all of the recitations of claim 1 such that claim 1 is allowable over Kang for at least these reasons. Claims 2-8, 14, and 15 depend from an allowable claim 1 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

#### Claim 16

Regarding claim 16, this claim recites that each cabinet comprises an input jack, a speaker connection, a series output switching jack, and a parallel output switching jack. Claim 16 further recites that wherein an electrical plug being inserted into the series output switching jack causes the series output switching jack to change from a first switched state to a second switched state to thereby place the speaker connection in series with the series output switching jack relative to the input switching jack and wherein the plug being inserted into the parallel output switching jack causes the parallel output switching jack to change from a first switched state to a second switched state to place

the speaker connection in parallel with the parallel output switching jack relative to the input switching jack.

Kang fails to disclose a series output switching jack and a parallel output switching jack. Furthermore, Kang fails to disclose that plugging into the series output switching jack results in a change of switched state since there are no switching states in Kang. Additionally, Kang fails to disclose that plugging into the parallel output switching jack results in a change of switched state since again there are no switching states in Kang.

Likewise, Parker fails to disclose a series output switching jack and a parallel output switching jack. Furthermore, Parker fails to disclose that plugging into the series output switching jack results in a change of switched state since there are no switching states in Parker. Additionally, Parker fails to disclose that plugging into the parallel output switching jack results in a change of switched state since again there are no switching states in Parker.

Thus, as neither Kang nor Parker discloses all of the recitations of claim 16, claim 16 is allowable over both Kang and Parker for at least these reasons.

### 103 Rejections

Claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 13, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 UCS §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kang (US Pat.5,714,723) in view of Crawford (US Pat. 5,000,286). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections to the extent they apply to the currently pending claims.

As noted above, claims 2-8 depend from an allowable base claim 1 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. It should be noted that Crawford fails to account for the deficiencies of Kang. Crawford also fails to disclose a series output switching jack and a parallel output switching jack, and in particular, fails to disclose such a configuration of a series output switching jack and a parallel output switching jack as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-8 are allowable for at least these reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant asserts that the application including claims 1-8 and 14-16 is now in condition for allowance. Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due beyond the fee for continued examination. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Jeramie J. Keys/

Jeramie J. Keys  
Reg. No. 42,724

Withers & Keys, LLC  
P.O. Box 71355  
Marietta, Ga 30007-1355  
(404) 849.2093